

BB FORM  
NO. 38

**ROUTE SLIP**

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET**

DATE 2/27/63

TO: Mr. John S. Warner

FROM: Martin Kramer

**REMARKS:**

Per your request

DATE

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on S.99, a bill, "To Create a United States Foreign Service Academy," which you forwarded to us with your letter of January 17, 1963.

As you know, the President has taken an active interest in the problem of training for our foreign affairs personnel. When the Report of the Presidential Advisory Panel on a National Academy of Foreign Affairs was made by the chairman, Dr. James A. Perkins, on December 17, 1962, the President said that the recommendations of this Panel, as well as the similar conclusions reached in the Report submitted on December 8 by former Secretary of State Christian A. Herter's Committee on Foreign Affairs Personnel, "support my conviction that we must move forward with this basic concept as soon as possible". The President indicated that he would "make appropriate recommendations to (this) session of Congress concerning this subject".

When the Secretary commented to you in December, he expressed the Department's awareness of the increasing need for such a training and research program on the professional level and explained that a group of senior officials of the State Department, Department of Defense, and other agencies had been brought together specifically to study this problem this year. The Department has also carefully considered several constructive proposals by members of Congress, such as S.99. It is expected that legislation will soon be

proposed

The Honorable

J. W. Fulbright, Chairman,  
Committee on Foreign Relations,  
United States Senate.

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proposed to authorize the establishment of an academy to provide in-service training to officers of all Federal departments and agencies involved in foreign affairs.

The Department continues to maintain grave reservations about proposals involving a centrally-controlled program for providing undergraduate, pre-employment training to prospective foreign affairs personnel. We have indications that high officials of other Federal agencies and many leading academic figures share these reservations.

It would be impossible to duplicate the depth and variety of basic courses in the arts, sciences, social disciplines, humanities and technical skills already conducted by hundreds of colleges and universities throughout the country. By the same token, we believe it would be undesirable to try to establish any kind of "standard G.I." curriculum of basic courses in this vast area of subject matter, thereby molding the minds of new recruits along the lines of a pre-conceived bureaucratic formula. The departments and agencies now engaged in various aspects of foreign affairs need to draw men and women from many different sources -- reflecting the same diversities of background, talent, experience, attitudes, and academic emphases that are characteristic of American society as a whole. The central focus of our Governmental training program, we believe, should be to harness these diverse qualities and to channel them toward the solution of practical problems and the performance of concrete tasks pertinent to our basic international objectives. We need unity in our dedication to American ideals and harmony in the execution of our policies and programs, but we must carefully avoid any experiment that might discourage imagination, initiative, adaptability and creativity.

Furthermore, as you know, many of our best officers do not choose a career in foreign affairs until after their undergraduate training, graduate study, military service or actual employment in other fields. If we should draw all or a major portion of our officers from a single undergraduate source, we would lose many highly-qualified men and women who have acquired invaluable experience, insight and maturity.

For these and other reasons, the Department cannot recommend the enactment of S.99 in its present form.

However,

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However, we hope all members of the Congress will continue to give serious attention to the important and urgent problem of providing high-quality training to Americans in all areas of foreign relations.

The Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Frederick G. Hutton  
Assistant Secretary